INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant's representative wishes to thank Examiner Mertz for the courtesy of the telephone interview on June 14, 2004. In that discussion Examiner Mertz indicated that by updating the cross-reference data, filing a Terminal Disclaimer against related U.S. Patent 5,516,658, and amending the independent claims in the present application to include an activity for proteins encoded by the claimed nucleic acids, for example the activation of the hek receptor by the claimed ligand, the present application would then be considered in form for allowance.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-15 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 have been amended to more particularly claim that which the inventors consider to be the invention. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, and in particular at page 2, lines 15-20, and do not represent new matter.

In addition, submitted herewith is a letter to the editor of Cell describing the historical nomenclature of the family of molecules known as the Ephrins. When originally cloned, these molecules were named by individuals who identified them leading to discordant and sometimes multiple names for the molecules. To clarify the family naming, a committee established a set of rules where the hek-L molecules, Lerk-3 and Lerk-4 which are the nucleic acids of described in the present application as SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3 respectively, are now called EphrinA3 and EphrinA4 respectively. Moreover, the receptor 'hek' has been renamed EphA3.

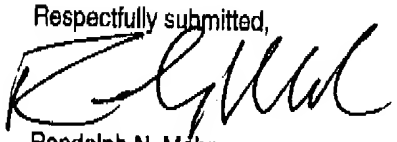
Further, a copy of the Cowan and Henkemeyer reference listed in the Form PTO- 1449, is submitted herewith. This review article describes how the EphrinA family of molecules each bind and transduce signals through the EphA receptor family, see for example, the paragraph bridging pages 339 to 340 and references cited therein. These two references in combination refer to the now commonly understood knowledge in the art that the EphrinA ligands bind and transduce signals to their counterpart EphA receptors, thereby confirming Applicants assertion of function on page 2, lines 15 to 20.

It is respectfully submitted that by the above-made amendments, and in view of the cited references demonstrating that EphrinA3 and A4 bind to their cognate receptor and transduce a signal, the previous rejections under Section 112 of Title 35 are hereby overcome and the application is now in form for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Should and additional Interview be necessary to expedite allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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